



EAR NOSE & THROAT ASSOCIATES

OF NORTHERN COLORADO, P. C.

March 12, 2013

To: Members of the Colorado House of Representatives

From: Bruce Smith, MD – Otolaryngologist
 Ear, Nose, and Throat Associates of Northern Colorado
 2121 E. Harmony Rd., Suite 350
 Fort Collins, CO 80528

Re: SB 39, Licensure for Audiologists in Colorado

Dear legislators,

I am writing to provide my full support of Senate Bill 39, continued licensure for audiologists in the state of Colorado. I am a Board Certified otolaryngologist, having practiced in northern Colorado since 1979. I believe that this bill will ensure that only qualified audiologists would practice audiology in Colorado, and that given the diverse scope of practice that audiologists provide (particularly in the area of hearing instrument dispensing), licensure is essential.

Not only does licensure help to maintain appropriate levels of practice for audiologists, it affords ongoing measures of consumer protection for those receiving the much needed services that audiologists provide. This is particularly true for children and the elderly – two groups whose consumer protection rights are particularly critical.

It is important to note that the relationship between otolaryngologists/otologists and audiologists in other parts of the country may involve issues far different than those in our state. Opposition to licensure in other states cannot be generalized to Colorado. We are privileged to enjoy an ongoing partnership with licensed audiologists in providing hearing health care to patients in Colorado, and look forward to many more years of joint service.

I urge you to vote in favor of SB 39. Thank you for your time, and your dedicated service to all Coloradoans! Please contact me if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Dr. Bruce Smith, Otolaryngologist

Cc: Colorado Academy of Audiology; file

Bruce M. Smith, M.D., F.A.C.S.

- Diseases and Surgery of the Ear, Nose and Throat
- Head and Neck Surgery

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